

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 99,551 American Indians live in North Carolina, according to Census 2000, giving the state the largest American Indian population east of the Mississippi and the eighth largest American Indian population in the country; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is home to eight American Indian tribes: the Coharie, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Haliwa-Saponi, the Lumbee, the Meherrin, the Occaneechi Band of Saponi, the Sappony, and the Waccamaw-Siouan; and

WHEREAS, these tribal governments and four urban American Indian center organizations located in Charlotte, Fayetteville, Greensboro, and Raleigh uniquely address the most critical issues confronting North Carolina American Indian citizens, such as school dropout rates higher than the general population, elevated unemployment and poverty rates, lack of safe and affordable housing, health disparities, increasing higher education attainment levels, and business growth and development in and near tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, American Indians in North Carolina have historically engaged the state's educational systems, driven by their attempts to continually advance their tribal communities and increase economic opportunities, promote self-sufficiency, and maintain tribal sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, in collaboration with United Tribes of North Carolina, Inc., in highlighting the historic importance of education to American Indian people in the state, have established the following theme in their celebration of American Indian culture in 2008: "Olde Indian Schools in North Carolina -Indian Education: Protecting the Past, Guiding the Future;"

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim November 2008, as "AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to recognize and celebrate the many achievements and contributions made by the native inhabitants of North Carolina.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Easley".  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fourth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.